

well-defined job responsibilities. His success earned him a promotion to the 1199 New England headquarters in Connecticut, where he served briefly before coming to Rhode Island in the summer of 1983.

Since his arrival, Stan has fought tirelessly to ensure that Rhode Island healthcare workers are the most fairly treated in the country. He has earned a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator and as a champion of employees throughout the entire healthcare system. Stan has also collaborated with management for the benefit of his members, most notably with a \$650,000 grant from the Federal Government to fund professional growth programs.

Stan has been a leader in lobbying the Rhode Island Legislature to pass just workplace protection laws. During his tenure, Rhode Island enacted the Hospital Conversion Act, which protects workers when hospitals are sold or merged, and the Safe Patient Handling Act, which bans mandatory overtime for nurses. The infrastructure he has developed at Local 1199 leaves it well poised to continue fighting for employees in the coming years.

A true public servant, Stan has selflessly volunteered throughout his time in the state. A settler trustee of the New England Employees Welfare Fund, he played a pivotal role in creating and developing the fund, which oversees the health insurance plans of thousands of healthcare workers and their families. He is the President of the Rhode Island SEIU State Council, Vice President of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, and a founding board member of Ocean State Action, a leading state advocacy group.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Ocean State is home to many devotees of justice, and Stan Israel is one of the best among them. I would be remiss not to mention his lovely wife, Cynthia, and children, Caitlin and John, whose support has been integral in his many lasting accomplishments, and I join with them and all those whose lives he has worked to improve in wishing Stan the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF INEZ
KILLINGSWORTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Inez Killingsworth, founder of Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), as she is recognized by ESOP for her multitude of achievements. Ms. Killingsworth has a long history of standing up for the rights of the people of her community, refusing to let their needs be ignored.

Ms. Killingsworth founded the East Side Organizing Project in 1993 as a means to address the unsafe conditions of her Union-Miles neighborhood. During the early 1990s, ESOP, under Ms. Killingsworth's leadership, began to rally against the lack of credit available to African Americans in the community. When predatory lending in the area increased and more and more community members were facing mortgage payments they could no longer afford, ESOP turned its focus to addressing this growing problem. ESOP became a statewide venture in 2008, when it opened 10 offices

throughout the state of Ohio. The organization was then renamed Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. ESOP acts as a foreclosure counseling agency. Through tactics varying from protesting banks to negotiating agreements between lenders and borrowers to taking financial executives on tours of the collapsing neighborhoods that are in peril due to predatory lending, ESOP has helped thousands of families in Ohio avoid losing their homes. In 2009, 80% of ESOP clients received favorable loan modifications.

In 2010, Ms. Killingsworth received a Purpose Prize from the San Francisco think tank Civic Ventures. This prize is awarded annually to ten Americans over the age of 60 who are changing the world in the second half of their lives. The award comes with a \$100,000 prize, part of which Ms. Killingsworth intends to use to create a program to help newly released felons find work. She also intends to address problems in other areas, such as the lack of healthy food choices in poor, urban neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Ms. Inez Killingsworth for her unwavering dedication to solving difficult challenges faced by the people of Ohio. She has been a role model in her community, relentlessly fighting for justice. I wish Ms. Killingsworth peace, health and happiness in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the contributions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 175 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planet's endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by the convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, which has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors

such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Every two to three years, the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2010. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to downlist elephant populations in Tanzania and Zambia were successfully defeated, several proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear, eight sharks, the bluefin tuna and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will recognize the important contributions the convention has made in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the convention's leadership in protecting elephants in Tanzania and Zambia. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and to adopt stronger protections for several endangered species at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species. It is essential to work with the international community to ensure the survival of these species. I believe that the stakes are too high to let national interests and differences hinder the future of our planet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and promoting environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING
HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that passed in 2010 is the law of the land. It extends historic protections to millions of Americans, ensuring access to quality health care. I voted for this law and I am grateful for the support I received from my constituents in Minnesota's fourth district for my work on reforming our nation's broken health care system.

Access to quality health care is essential for all Americans. I firmly believe health care should be a right for our citizens, not a privilege or a luxury only for the most fortunate who can afford it. I am committed to working